

Emilie's Birthday Gifts Benefit New Hampshire Veterans Home

TILTON, NH - Turning 30 is somewhat of a milestone. For some people it's a not-so-subtle reminder that it's time to grow up, settle down, and become a responsible adult. For others, it's a birthday that signifies the beginning of real self confidence, maturity, and unselfishness—a recognition that life should be much more than an effort to accumulate “things.”

Emilie Blair, who lives in Keene, NH and just turned 30, is the second kind of person. Her dad, Paul Croteau, works in the production department and writes a regular column for veterans in the Keene Sentinel, one of the oldest newspapers in New England. Paul, a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Navy who retired in 1987, is a member and Past Commander of the American Legion Post #4 in Keene. He's also a great role model for his daughter.

He says, “Of course I'm proud of Em; that goes without saying. My wish is that others would follow in her example and put service above self.”

Emilie works as a bookkeeper for Baudelaire Soaps and Body Care, a company that imports distinctive, handcrafted imported soaps from Europe. She is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 4 in Keene.

When it came time to celebrate her birthday, Emilie decided the best way to commemorate the milestone was to encourage her family and friends not to give her gifts, but instead to make donations to the New Hampshire Veterans Home Resident Benefit Fund. “After all,” she says, “We have a lot of family members and friends who are serving or have served in the military. The Veterans Home is undergoing renovations and is creating a new Main Street area with

a store, barber shop, physical therapy area, library/media center, and more. I thought it would be great to encourage people to donate to that part of the Home.”

Barry E. Conway, Commandant of the New Hampshire Veterans Home, accepted the donations from Emilie and her Dad. He said, “These contributions mean a great deal to our residents and staff. We are deeply touched by Paul and Emilie's support for veterans. The idea of ‘Emilie's Birthday Gifts to the Veterans Home’ should be an inspiration to all of us.”



PHOTO: Paul Croteau with his daughter, Emilie Blair, of Keene, NH, presenting donations totaling \$1400.00 to Commandant Barry Conway for the NH Veterans Home, in honor of Emilie's 30th Birthday.